

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

7 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

8 Plaintiff,

9 v.

10 LOUIE MAHONEY, KATHLEEN  
11 S. MAHONEY, CHRISTINE  
MAHONEY-MEYER,  
12 MARGARET R. JOSE, GERALD  
GEORGE, ROGER FIANDER,

13 Defendants.  
14

NOS. CR-05-2099-RHW-1  
CR-05-2099-RHW-2  
CR-05-2099-RHW-3  
CR-05-2099-RHW-6  
CR-05-2099-RHW-7  
CR-05-2099-RHW-8

**ORDER ON PRETRIAL  
MOTIONS**

15 A pretrial conference was held in the above-captioned case on August 29,  
16 2006. Defendant Louie Mahoney was present and represented by Richard Smith;  
17 Defendant Kathleen Mahoney was present and represented by Brian Sanderson;  
18 Defendant Christine Mahoney-Meyer was present and represented by Scott  
19 Chapman; Defendant Margaret Jose was present and represented by Gregory Scott;  
20 Defendant Gerald George was present and represented by Zenon Olbertz; and  
21 Defendant Roger Fiander was present and represented by Jack Fiander. Assistant  
22 United States Attorney Jane Kirk appeared on behalf of the Government.

23 An Indictment was filed against Defendants on August 16, 2005 (Ct. Rec.  
24 1). The Indictment alleges that Defendants were engaged in a conspiracy to violate  
25 the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act ("RICO"), 18 U.S.C. §  
26 1962(d). The Indictment also alleges that certain Defendants were engaged in a  
27 conspiracy to traffic in contraband cigarettes between Idaho and Washington, and  
28 did traffic in contraband cigarettes between Idaho and Washington, in violation of

1 the Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 371, 2342(a), & 2  
2 (“CCTA”). Additionally, the Indictment alleges the following charges against  
3 certain Defendants: Mail Fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341 & 2; Travel in  
4 Aid of Racketeering, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1952(a)(1), (3) & 2; and  
5 Conspiracy to Launder Money and Money Laundering, in violation of 18 U.S.C.  
6 §§ 371, 1956(a)(1), (h), 1957, & 2.

7 Before the Court are Defendant Louie Mahoney’s Motion for Extension of  
8 Time to File Pretrial Motions and to Strike and Continue the Trial Date (Ct. Rec.  
9 226); Motion to Compel Disclosure of Any and All Promises of Leniency (Ct. Rec.  
10 229); Motion for Disclosure of Identity and Production of Informant(s) (Ct. Rec.  
11 231); Motion for Joinder (Ct. Rec. 233); Motion to Dismiss Case Based on  
12 Discriminatory Enforcement (Ct. Rec. 235); Motion to Suppress (Ct. Rec. 239);  
13 Motion to Dismiss Case (Ct. Rec. 251); Motion to Dismiss Case Based on Treaty  
14 Violations (Ct. Rec. 254); and Motion for Order Declaring 18 U.S.C. §§ 2341 &  
15 2342 Unconstitutional for Vagueness (Ct. Rec. 256). Also before the Court are  
16 Defendant Christine Mahoney-Meyer’s Motion for Discovery (Ct. Rec. 234);  
17 Motion to Dismiss Case as Conduct Was Authorized by Tribal Laws (Ct. Rec.  
18 238); Motion for Extension of Time to File Pretrial Motions and to Strike and  
19 Continue Trial (Ct. Rec. 243); and Motion for Joinder (Ct. Rec. 247). Defendant  
20 Margaret Jose has filed her Motion to Continue (Ct. Rec. 216); Motion for  
21 Extension of Time to File (Ct. Rec. 217); Motion for Discovery (Ct. Rec. 218); and  
22 Motion for Joinder (Ct. Rec. 219). Lastly, the Court also considers Defendant  
23 Roger Fiander’s Motion to Continue (Ct. Rec. 224) and Motion to Dismiss Case  
24 for Lack of Predicate Violation per RCW 37.12.010 (Ct. Rec. 261). The Court  
25 addresses the substantive motions below in turn. The procedural motions and  
26 motions regarding discovery are addressed at the end of this Order.

**DISCUSSION****I. Defendant Louie Mahoney's Motion to Suppress**

Defendant is challenging the warrant that supported the search and seizure of evidence from his home on May 20, 2003. He argues that the affidavit in support of the search warrant fails to present sufficient facts to conclude that illegal trafficking in contraband cigarettes was occurring between the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation and various reservations in Washington. He states that the affidavit does not establish probable cause because it is based on speculation and there was no nexus between the alleged crimes and the places to be searched and the items to be seized. The 112-page affidavit was submitted by Ralph Lambright and dated May 14, 2003.

**A. The Affidavit**

The Lambright affidavit alleges that Defendant Louie Mahoney was engaged in shipping wholesale unstamped cigarettes from the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation in northern Idaho to various smoke shops located on Indian reservations throughout Washington State. Idaho does not require that cigarette cartons sold on Indian Reservations bear tax stamps, while Washington state requires that cigarettes either bear tax stamps (tax-paid, tax-exempt, or approved tribal stamps) or be pre-approved for shipment to the tribal organization/retailer. RCW 82.24.030 & 82.24.250; WAC 458-20-192(9)(a). The affidavit alleges that the purpose of Defendant's alleged trafficking scheme is to avoid paying Washington State tax on cigarettes sold to non-Indians at the Washington Indian reservation smoke shops.

The affidavit purports to provide facts sufficient to support a finding of probable cause to issue twelve search warrants for businesses and residences within the Eastern and Western Districts of Washington, as well as the District of Idaho. These included: Lil' Brown Smoke Shack, Union Gap, Washington; Goodman Road Smoke Shop, Union Gap, Washington; John and Judy Hunter,

1 Wapato, Washington; LA Nelson/Burke's Distributing, Spokane, Washington;  
 2 Black Sheep Distributing, Spokane, Washington; Louie Mahoney, Plummer Idaho;  
 3 Chrissy's Corner, Plummer, Idaho; JKL Enterprises, Plummer, Idaho; Two Y  
 4 Yays and Margaret Jose, Plummer, Idaho; Peter Mahoney, Plummer, Idaho; The  
 5 Warpath/ Smoke Shop/ Trading Post/ Mahoney Petroleum/ Pemmican Inn  
 6 Restaurant, Lounge & Café/ Warpath One Stop, Plummer, Idaho; Lyle's Smoke  
 7 Shop, Fife, Washington; Lyle's II Smoke Shop, Tacoma, Washington; and Indian  
 8 Smoke Shop, Milton, Washington. The description of the businesses and  
 9 residences to be searched belonging to Defendant Mahoney is contained in  
 10 paragraph 30 of the affidavit.

11 The portions of the affidavit which specifically mention Louie Mahoney or  
 12 his business, JKL Enterprises, include:

13 (1) Section V, titled "The Investigation" (§ 37);

14 (2) Section VI, titled "Probable Cause for Lil' Brown Smoke Shack; Judy &  
 15 John Hunter Residence; Yakima Distributing" (§§ 44-47);

16 (3) Section VIII, titled "Probable Cause for JKL and Warpath" (§§ 56-58,  
 17 60-72, 87-91, 97-109, 117-118, 120-121);

18 (4) Paragraph 128;

19 (5) Section X, titled "Probable Cause for Burke's and Black Sheep" (§§  
 20 142-43);

21 (6) Section XI, titled "Financial Investigation" (§§ 156-57 & 163); and

22 (7) Section XII, titled "Evidence to be Seized" (§ 165 (A)(6), (7), (16)).

23 Defendant Louie Mahoney objects to multiple statements made in the affidavit and  
 24 to general conclusions drawn from the affidavit.

## 25 **B. Discussion**

26 The Supreme Court established in *Illinois v. Gates* that probable cause to  
 27 issue a search warrant exists when "given all the circumstances set forth in the  
 28 affidavit . . . there is a fair probability that contraband or evidence of a crime will

1 be found in a particular place.” 462 U.S. 213, 238 (1983). Probable cause is based  
2 on the totality of the circumstances known to the officers at the time of the search.  
3 *Id.* So long as the affidavit evidences a “fair probability or substantial chance of  
4 criminal activity,” the search warrant must be upheld. *United States v. Bishop*, 264  
5 F.3d 919, 924 (9th Cir. 2001) (citation omitted). Great deference is accorded a  
6 magistrate’s determination of probable cause. *United States v. Espinosa*, 827 F.2d  
7 604, 610 (9th Cir. 1987).

8 Defendant does not request a *Franks* hearing in his motion. Instead, he  
9 appears to be asserting the affidavit does not support a finding of probable cause as  
10 it stands.

11 One general objection to the content of the affidavit and its organization is  
12 the grouping of Louie Mahoney with his brother, Peter Mahoney. Peter Mahoney  
13 is a defendant in *United States v. Mahoney*, Case No. CR-04-2127-RHW.  
14 Defendant Louie Mahoney objects to what he terms an insinuation of a criminal  
15 link between himself and Peter Mahoney. Peter Mahoney objected to this  
16 insinuation as well. (CR-04-2127-RHW, Ct. Rec. 30). The Mahoney brothers  
17 have been estranged for several years. (Lambright Affidavit (“Affidavit”), Ct. Rec.  
18 242, Ex. A, ¶ 120).

19 In Section VIII of the affidavit, facts supporting probable cause to search  
20 Peter Mahoney’s businesses and residences are interspersed with references to  
21 Louie Mahoney’s residence and business operations. After a careful review of the  
22 affidavit, the Court finds the Magistrate Judge would have been able to discern the  
23 paragraphs that specifically deal with Louie Mahoney, as opposed to other  
24 individuals, when making a probable cause determination. Information pertaining  
25 to Peter Mahoney, or indeed the other Mahoney siblings, Margaret Jose and  
26 Christine Mahoney-Meyer, and other cigarette retailers was sufficiently  
27 identifiable to avoid misleading the Magistrate Judge. Section VIII of the affidavit  
28 is organized chronologically rather than divided by person or location. While a

1 person-by-person affidavit may have been more accessible to the Magistrate Judge,  
2 it was not required by the Fourth Amendment.

3 Another aspect of Defendant's objection regarding the association with his  
4 brother is the lack of evidence in the affidavit that Louie Mahoney transported  
5 contraband cigarettes into Washington. Defendant asserts the evidence of Peter  
6 Mahoney's transport of cigarettes taints him. The only direct evidence of the  
7 transport of cigarettes in the Mahoney section of the affidavit involves trips made  
8 by Mark Van't Hul, a co-defendant in the Peter Mahoney case, on behalf of Peter  
9 Mahoney. (Affidavit, Ct. Rec. 242, Ex. A, ¶ 74; *see also United States v. Van't*  
10 *Hul*, Case No. CR-04-2130-RHW).

11 Nonetheless, there is sufficient evidence of Louie Mahoney's sale of  
12 cigarettes to Washington retailers, and from this a Magistrate Judge could  
13 reasonably infer transport of the contraband cigarettes. There is sufficient evidence  
14 to form probable cause that Louie Mahoney was selling and/or distributing  
15 contraband cigarettes, whether or not the affidavit included direct evidence of his  
16 transport of the cigarettes as well. Additionally, whether Louie Mahoney was  
17 actually involved in the illegal activity of transporting contraband cigarettes is not  
18 material to the determination of probable cause. The search of his residence was  
19 justified if only to gather evidence of the illegal activity of the Washington retailers  
20 to whom he sold unstamped cigarettes. *United States v. Elliott*, 322 F.3d 710, 716  
21 (9th Cir. 2003) ("probable cause to believe that a person conducts illegal activities  
22 in the place where he is to be searched is not necessary; the proper inquiry is  
23 whether there was probable cause to believe that evidence of illegal activity would  
24 be found in the search.").

25 Accordingly, the Court finds the Magistrate Judge would have been able to  
26 determine probable cause existed for a search of Louie Mahoney's residence  
27 independent from the evidence of illegal transport of unstamped cigarettes into  
28 Washington by his brother and his brother's associate.

1 Defendant also complains about the various declarations of what he terms  
2 “suspicion and belief” contained in the affidavit. He correctly asserts that an  
3 affidavit must create more than “mere suspicion” that a specific crime was  
4 committed. *United States v. Dickerson*, 873 F.2d 1181, 1184 (9th Cir. 1988).  
5 Nonetheless, the affidavit contains objective criteria that go beyond the personal  
6 beliefs of the applicants for the warrant, and it establishes more than “mere  
7 suspicion.” The affidavit contains bank records, checks written by and to Louie  
8 Mahoney and JKL Enterprises, observations of Defendant’s property, and various  
9 other concrete evidence that supports the opinions and beliefs expressed. In  
10 particular, Defendant objects to statements such as “From Agent Goodpastor’s  
11 experience with this investigation, other investigative sources and from  
12 information contained elsewhere in this affidavit, Agent Goodpastor believes . . .”

13 The affidavit sets forth Agent Goodpastor’s qualifications and experience;  
14 this kind of statement when based on an agent’s knowledge and experience is  
15 permissible in an affidavit to establish probable cause for a warrant. *See United*  
16 *States v. Motz*, 936 F.2d 1021, 1024 (9th Cir. 1991) (“Opinions and conclusions of  
17 an experienced agent regarding a set of facts are properly a factor in the probable  
18 cause equation under the *Gates* totality of the circumstances approach.”). The  
19 concrete evidence contained within the affidavit in concert with the opinions and  
20 conclusions of Agent Goodpastor does more than establish mere suspicion. In fact,  
21 it justifies a finding of probable cause by the Magistrate Judge under the totality of  
22 the circumstances approach.

23 Next, Defendant contends there is not a sufficient nexus between the places  
24 to be searched and the items to be seized. Defendant states the affidavit lacks  
25 probable cause establishing a link between criminal activity and the residence  
26 listed as Louie Mahoney’s, 396693 Highway 95, Plummer, Idaho, sufficient to  
27 justify a search at that location. However, paragraphs 120 and 121 and the  
28 paragraphs they reference clearly establish a link between contraband cigarettes



1 and Louie Mahoney's residence—they discuss deliveries of unstamped cigarettes  
2 directly to Louie Mahoney's residence. The affidavit contains abundant evidence  
3 that (1) Louie Mahoney and the Washington retailers to whom he sold cigarettes  
4 did not notify Washington authorities of the shipment of untaxed cigarettes; (2) the  
5 Washington retailers purchased a large number of cigarettes from Louie Mahoney  
6 and JKL Enterprises; (3) cigarettes purchased from the Washington retailers were  
7 not stamped and thus were contraband; and (4) unstamped cigarettes were  
8 routinely delivered to Louie Mahoney's residence. The Court finds this and other  
9 evidence within the affidavit demonstrates a sufficient connection between  
10 criminal activity and Louie Mahoney's residence to justify a finding of probable  
11 cause to search that location for the items associated with a business operation  
12 involving the trafficking of contraband cigarettes. *See Elliott*, 322 F.3d at 716  
13 ("probable cause to believe that a person conducts illegal activities in the place  
14 where he is to be searched is not necessary; the proper inquiry is whether there was  
15 probable cause to believe that evidence of illegal activity would be found in the  
16 search.").

17 The Government also points out the *Leon* good faith exception further  
18 insulates this warrant from challenge. Certainly, the affidavit was not "so lacking  
19 in indicia of probable cause as to render official belief in its existence entirely  
20 unreasonable." *United States v. Leon*, 468 U.S. 897, 923 (1984) (citation omitted).

21 Looking at the totality of the circumstances at the time the officers  
22 conducted the search of Louie Mahoney's residence, as represented in the affidavit,  
23 it establishes that there was "a fair probability that contraband or evidence of a  
24 crime will be found in a particular place." *Gates*, 462 U.S. at 238. Accordingly,  
25 the Court denies Defendant's Motion to Suppress.

26 **II. Defendant Louie Mahoney's Motion for Order Declaring the CCTA**  
27 **Unconstitutional for Vagueness**

28 Defendant argues that the CCTA, as applied to Indians under Washington  
law, is unconstitutionally vague. A statute is unconstitutionally vague if it does not



1 (1) describe the crime sufficiently to allow ordinary people to understand what  
2 conduct is prohibited, and (2) provide law enforcement with adequate guidelines.  
3 *Panther v. Hames*, 991 F.2d 576, 578 (9th Cir. 1993). This argument however,  
4 was explicitly foreclosed by the reasoning in *United States v. Baker*, where the  
5 Ninth Circuit held:

6       The interaction between the CCTA and Washington's tax scheme, on  
7       which the CCTA violation is predicated does not involve a complex  
8       regulatory scheme with the potential of trapping unwary merchants  
9       trading in cigarettes. The law is quite simple . . . . the CCTA and  
10       Washington's cigarette tax scheme are not so complex as to create the  
11       danger of innocent violation.

12       63 F.3d 1478, 1492-93 (9th Cir. 1995). Based on this clear holding, the Court is  
13 bound by Ninth Circuit precedent on this issue. Furthermore, because the law is so  
14 “simple” the Court need not apply the rule of lenity in Defendant’s favor.

15       Defendant submits the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution  
16 preempts the Washington cigarette tax statutes. He asserts that the Supremacy  
17 Clause forecloses the application of Washington State tax laws to Defendant, even  
18 though a federal law directs their application. *See* 18 U.S.C. §§ 2341 & 2342.  
19 This argument is also foreclosed by *Baker* which holds that the Washington tax  
20 scheme is not preempted by federal law. 63 F.3d at 1489-91. Defendant cites to  
21 cases that hold various state laws were preempted by federal laws, particularly  
22 when applied to Indians, and argues these cases, decided after *Baker*, abrogate its  
23 holding. *E.g.*, *Ward v. New York*, 291 F. Supp. 2d 188 (W.D.N.Y. 2003); *Cabazon*  
24 *Band of Mission Indians v. Smith*, 388 F.3d 691 (9th Cir. 2004); *Coeur d’Alene*  
25 *Tribe of Idaho v. Hammond*, 384 F.3d 674, 690 (9th Cir. 2004). Not only are all  
26 these cases readily distinguishable from the instant matter, but also *Baker* is  
27 directly on point. The reasoning in *Baker* remains sound, and the Court is bound  
28 by its holding.

      Defendant attempts to distinguish this matter from the facts presented to the  
Ninth Circuit in *Baker*. Regardless of the different kinds of business operations at  
issue in both cases, the court’s holding in *Baker* is unmistakable and applicable to

1 any enforcement of the CCTA to Indians.<sup>1</sup>

2 Defendant argues that the Washington pre-notification statutes are overly  
3 vague because of the exceptions applicable to “wholesalers.” However, the  
4 Government points out that two sections of the Washington Administrative Code  
5 aid in understanding and complying with Chapter 82.24 of the Washington  
6 Revised Code. *See* WAC §§ 458-20-186; 458-20-192. In light of *Baker* and  
7 *Washington v. Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation*, 447 U.S.  
8 134, 159 (1979), federal law on this issue also has been well-defined.  
9 Accordingly, the Court finds that Washington’s pre-notification statutes meet the  
10 constitutional minimum and denies the Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss on this  
11 ground.

12 Defendant also sets forth several arguments within this motion that the  
13 CCTA, and through it the Washington State cigarette tax statutes, violates due  
14 process and equal protection rights. Defendant claims his due process rights are  
15 violated because of the lack of meaningful notice given by the “vague”  
16 Washington statutes. The Court has already determined that the statutes are not  
17 unconstitutionally vague, however, so this argument is precluded.

18 In addition, Defendant argues his equal protection rights are implicated  
19 because the Washington statute treats Indian wholesalers differently from  
20 wholesalers licensed within the State. The Government points out that RCW §§  
21 82.24.040 and 82.24.250 limit transportation of unstamped cigarettes generally to  
22 Washington licensed wholesalers. An exception is made for persons transporting  
23 unstamped cigarettes to Indian tribal organizations. RCW §§ 82.24.040;  
24 82.24.250. This exception is not discriminatory; if anything it provides Indian  
25 tribal organizations greater rights than non-tribal members. Additionally, the pre-  
26 notification requirement applies to Indians and non-Indians alike. To the extent

---

27 <sup>1</sup> Unless there exist distinguishing factors, such as an express treaty right.  
28 *See United States v. Smiskin*, 2005 WL 1288001, at \*2-4 (E.D. Wash. 2005).

1 Indian retailers are singled out, it is to ensure they and their tribal-member  
2 customers are able to exercise the *greater* rights guaranteed them by treaty.  
3 Accordingly, Defendant's equal protection rights are not implicated by  
4 Washington's statutes. The Court denies Defendant's Motion to Dismiss on this  
5 ground.

6 **III. Defendant Louie Mahoney's Motion to Dismiss Based on**  
7 **Discriminatory Enforcement of RCW 82.24**

8 In a similar vein, Defendant asserts the United States and the State of  
9 Washington are enforcing RCW §§ 82.24 *et seq.* in a discriminatory manner in that  
10 they are targeting Native Americans to the exclusion of any other individual or  
11 race who may be engaging in the same or similar conduct.

12 Defendant focuses on a 1995 study on revenue loss in Washington due to  
13 cigarette tax evasion. The study revealed that Indian sales of cigarettes accounted  
14 for 60 percent of tax loss, military purchases by non-military personnel accounted  
15 for 11 percent of the tax loss, and casual smuggling amounted to 29 percent of the  
16 tax loss in 1995. Defendant reports that in response to this study, the legislature  
17 authorized the Department of Revenue to require Washington State Liquor Control  
18 Board ("WSLCB") agents to aid in the enforcement of cigarette tax laws.  
19 Defendant claims that state enforcement efforts have focused solely on Native  
20 Americans since this time, in spite of the fact that 40 percent of tax loss is a result  
21 of other kinds of tax evasion.

22 Defendant focuses on the State's enforcement of its cigarette tax laws. The  
23 Court notes that Defendant is charged with a federal crime. The federal violation is  
24 predicated upon a violation of state law, but it is clearly a federal statute.  
25 Defendant has not presented any evidence that the CCTA is being discriminatorily  
26 or selectively enforced against Native Americans in Washington or elsewhere.

27 When examining selective prosecution claims, the Ninth Circuit has held  
28 that it and other courts

must exercise a high degree of deference to the decision of

1 prosecuting authorities to bring charges, because the Constitution  
 2 assigns that decision to the executive branch of government. One  
 3 important restriction on prosecutorial discretion, however, is that “the  
 4 decision whether to prosecute may not be based on ‘an unjustifiable  
 5 standard such as race, religion, or other arbitrary classification.’” To  
 6 establish such a violation of equal protection, “[t]he claimant must  
 7 demonstrate that the federal prosecutorial policy ‘had a discriminatory  
 8 effect and that it was motivated by a discriminatory purpose.’”

9 To meet the first requirement, of discriminatory effect, [the  
 10 defendant] “must show that similarly situated individuals of a  
 11 different [ethnic origin] were not prosecuted.” . . . This standard for  
 12 demonstrating a violation of equal protection is “a demanding one.”  
 13 The showing necessary to obtain discovery is somewhat less: the  
 14 defendant must produce “some evidence that similarly situated  
 15 defendants of other races could have been prosecuted, but were not.”  
 16 Even this standard, however, is a “rigorous” one designed to minimize  
 17 interference with the prosecutorial function.

18 *United States v. Arenas-Ortiz*, 339 F.3d 1066, 1068-69 (9th Cir. 2003), *cert.*  
 19 *denied*, 540 U.S. 1084 (2003) (quoting *United States v. Armstrong*, 517 U.S. 456,  
 20 464, 465, 463, 469, 468 (2002)). “Similarly situated individuals” in this case  
 21 would be non-Indians who were not prosecuted even though they violated the  
 22 CCTA.

23 To prove selective prosecution, “[a] defendant may demonstrate that the  
 24 administration of a criminal law is ‘directed so exclusively against a particular  
 25 class of persons . . . with a mind so unequal and oppressive’ that the system of  
 26 prosecution amounts to ‘a practical denial’ of equal protection of the law.”  
 27 *Armstrong*, 417 U.S. at 465 (citing *Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, 118 U.S. 356, 373 (1886)).  
 28 Specifically, “[t]he claimant must demonstrate that the federal prosecutorial policy  
 ‘had a discriminatory effect and that it was motivated by a discriminatory  
 purpose.’” *Id.* In turn, “[t]o establish a discriminatory effect in a race case, the  
 claimant must show that similarly situated individuals of a different race were not  
 prosecuted.” *Id.*

Defendant argues that because Washington State has focused all of its  
 resources on cigarette tax revenues lost through tribal sales, while ignoring the  
 problem of illegal military sales and casual smuggling, the Government is engaged  
 in selective prosecution. This discriminatory allocation of resources, however,

1 even if proved, is one step removed from selective prosecution. The fact that  
2 Washington State focuses its resources on Indian cigarette trafficking schemes  
3 does not mean that the United States Attorney engages in selective prosecution by  
4 indicting Indians engaged in selling cigarettes in Washington. Instead, the  
5 Government points to instances where 18 U.S.C. § 2342(a) has been enforced  
6 among persons of non-Indian race. *See United States v. Abuhamra*, 289 F. 3d 309,  
7 317 (2d Cir. 2004) (native of Yemen convicted under CCTA); *United States v.*  
8 *Hammoud*, 381 F.23d 316, 353 (4th Cir. 2004) (citizen of Lebanon convicted  
9 under CCTA).

10 Defendant argues that the equal protection clause also prohibits selective  
11 enforcement of laws at the investigative stage. He cites to the Supreme Court's  
12 dicta in *Whren v. United States*, a Fourth Amendment case, that “the Constitution  
13 prohibits selective enforcement of the law based on considerations such as race.”  
14 517 U.S. 806, 813 (1996). However, the CCTA does not outlaw “casual  
15 smuggling,” assuming casual smuggling by definition cannot involve 60,000 or  
16 more cigarettes, 18 U.S.C. § 2341; nor does it outlaw small purchases of tax free  
17 cigarettes from military bases. Additionally, the enforcement of Washington law is  
18 peripheral to this indictment. Defendant has presented no statistical evidence or  
19 studies that show Indians are being singled out in CCTA, *i.e.*, federal prosecutions.  
20 Defendant simply has not presented any evidence regarding an equal protection  
21 violation or discriminatory enforcement involving the CCTA. Accordingly,  
22 Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss on this ground is denied.

23 **IV. Defendant Louie Mahoney’s and Defendant Christine Mahoney-**  
24 **Meyer’s Motions to Dismiss As Conduct Was Authorized by Tribal**  
25 **Laws and Approved by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of**  
26 **Indian Affairs**

27 Defendant Louie Mahoney and Defendant Christine Mahoney-Meyer both  
28 argue that any tobacco sales to other Indian reservations were authorized by the  
Coeur d'Alene Tribal laws which were approved by the U.S. Department of the  
Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs. They submit they were both operating under the

1 licensing authority of the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Code, which authorized sales to  
2 other Indian reservations. Coeur d'Alene Tribal Code 24-19.01. Specifically, the  
3 Code provision reads "[t]he Tobacco and Liquor Outlets shall be authorized to sell  
4 cigarettes . . . to other Indian reservations and tribes, provided that the Tribal  
5 governing body on the Reservation to which the sales are made has a valid, Bureau  
6 of Indian Affairs approved cigarette and/or liquor ordinance." *Id.*

7 *Baker* recognized that the CCTA was a law of general applicability which  
8 was "presumed to apply with equal force to Indians." 63 F.3d at 1484. *Baker*  
9 further found that Congress did not intend to exempt Indians from the scope of the  
10 CCTA. *Id.* at 1484-86. This Court is bound by *Baker*. The Supreme Court  
11 recognized in *Department of Taxation and Finance of New York v. Milhelm Attea*  
12 *& Bros., Inc.*, 512 U.S. 61, 75-78 (1994), that states had the right to tax sales of  
13 cigarettes from Indians to non-Indians on Indian lands. The Tribal ordinance does  
14 not permit the violation of Washington State tax laws. Additionally, Defendants  
15 have not submitted any evidence that they actually possessed then or now possess a  
16 license issued by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe for wholesale cigarette sales.  
17 Accordingly, the Court denies Defendants' Motions to Dismiss on this ground.

18 **V. Defendant Louie Mahoney's Motion to Dismiss Based on Treaty**  
19 **Violations**

20 Defendant argues that the WSLCB and federal agencies enforcing the CCTA  
21 are infringing on his right to free trade with other federally-recognized Indian  
22 tribes. *Baker* forecloses the argument that the CCTA infringes on an express treaty  
23 right to trade. 63 F.3d at 1485 (holding "the CCTA does not restrict trading in  
24 cigarettes; it makes it a crime to fail to pay applicable state taxes on cigarettes  
25 subject to tax"). Cases and statutes cited by Defendant are distinguishable.  
26 *Mahoney v. Idaho*, 96 Idaho 59 (1974), a state case that is not binding on this  
27 Court, was decided before the Supreme Court held taxation of cigarette sales  
28 between Indian retailers and non-tribal member purchases was legal in *Colville*,  
447 U.S. at 159. Accordingly, it is no longer good law on this point. *Smiskin* is



likewise inapplicable in this instance because its holding was limited to those who benefit from the right to travel established in the Yakama Treaty of 1855. Similarly, the Indian Trader Statute, 25 U.S.C. § 4301, recognizes the rights of Tribes to enter into agreements and trade freely. Louie Mahoney is not a Tribe. Accordingly, the Court denies Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Based on Treaty Violations.

## **VI. Defendant Louie Mahoney's Motion to Dismiss**

In Mr. Mahoney's last substantive motion, he urges the Court to find that the CCTA, 18 U.S.C. § 2341 *et seq.*, does not apply to Indians. This argument is foreclosed by the Ninth Circuit's holding in *Baker* to the contrary. 63 F.3d at 1486. Defendant emphasizes different language in the footnote of the House Conference Report regarding the CCTA's application to Indians to argue his point that the Ninth Circuit got it wrong. *See id.* at 1485-86 (citing H.R. Conf. Rep. No. 1778, 95th Cong., 2d Sess. 1, 9 n.1, *reprinted in* 1978 U.S. Code & Cong. Admin. News 5535, 5538) (stating "[a] fair reading of the footnote indicates Congress merely intended not to preempt rights granted to Indians by the states to transport and distribute untaxed cigarettes"). However, the Court is bound by Ninth Circuit precedent, and *Baker* clearly holds that the CCTA applies to Indians. *Id.* at 1486. Accordingly, the Court denies Defendant's Motion to Dismiss.

## **VII. Defendant Roger Fiander's Motion to Dismiss Indictment**

Defendant moves the Court to dismiss the Indictment. He bases his motion in part on the Court's holding and reasoning in its prior Order denying his motion to dismiss (Ct. Rec. 142).

### **A. Prior Order Denying Defendant's Motion to Dismiss**

In his earlier motion to dismiss, Defendant, who is a member of the Yakama Tribe, requested dismissal based on his treaty right to travel as it was defined by the Ninth Circuit in *Cree v. Flores*, 157 F.3d 762 (9th Cir. 1998). In *United States v. Smiskin*, Judge Shea determined that Yakama Tribal members' treaty right to



1 travel preempted the application of Washington's prohibition against transporting  
2 cigarettes without pre-approval from the WSLCB. 2005 WL 1288001, at \*3. The  
3 Court found that this case was distinguishable from that in *Smiskin* because  
4 Defendant was not accused only of transporting contraband cigarettes, but also of  
5 delivering the cigarettes to tribal retailers within the Yakama Reservation. Because  
6 Defendant did not give notice of his possession and delivery of unstamped  
7 cigarettes, which are acts not contemplated or protected by the Yakama treaty right  
8 to travel without restriction, the cigarettes were contraband and the Indictment  
9 valid. (*See* Ct. Rec. 142).

#### 10 **B. Discussion**

11 Defendant now states that the Washington State Legislature did not extend  
12 its cigarette tax pre-notification statute to the conduct of tribal members on tribal  
13 land within Indian reservations. Therefore, there was no predicate violation of  
14 state law, and the indictment must be dismissed.

15 States generally do not have civil and criminal jurisdiction over Indians  
16 within Indian country absent federal legislation specifically granting it. *Worcester*  
17 *v. Georgia*, 31 U.S. 515, 559-60 (1832). In what is commonly referred to as Public  
18 Law 280, H.R. Rep. No. 848, 83rd Cong., 1st Sess., 5-6 (1953) (codified as  
19 amended at 18 U.S.C. § 1162, 25 U.S.C. §§ 1321-1326, 28 U.S.C. §§ 1360, 1360  
20 note), Congress granted states such as Washington, the constitution of which  
21 contained a disclaimer of jurisdiction over Indian Country, permission to amend  
22 "where necessary" their state constitutions to remove any legal impediment to the  
23 assumption of general jurisdiction. *Washington v. Confederated Bands & Tribes of*  
24 *Yakima Indian Nation*, 439 U.S. 463, 471-74 (1979) (*Confederated Bands*); *see*  
25 *also State v. Sohappay*, 110 Wash. 2d 907, 909-10 (1988) (discussing the effect of  
26 RCW § 37.12.010 on State jurisdiction over Indians on trust lands). Relevant to  
27 this case, the Washington Legislature in 1963 enacted Chapter 36. *Confederated*  
28 *Bands*, 439 U.S. at 475. Chapter 36 extended at least some jurisdiction over all

1 Indian lands within the state. *Id.*

2 Full criminal and civil jurisdiction to the extent permitted by Pub. L.  
3 280 was extended to all fee lands in every Indian reservation and to  
4 trust and allotted lands therein when non-Indians were involved.  
5 Except for eight categories of law, however, state jurisdiction was not  
6 extended to Indians on allotted and trust lands unless the affected tribe  
7 so requested. The eight jurisdictional categories of state law that were  
8 thus extended to all parts of every Indian reservation were in the areas  
9 of compulsory school attendance, public assistance, domestic  
10 relations, mental illness, juvenile delinquency, adoption proceedings,  
11 dependent children, and motor vehicles.

12 *Id.* at 475-76 (emphasis added).

13 Defendant asserts that his delivery of the cigarettes at issue in the Indictment  
14 occurred on tribal lands held in trust by the United States. Therefore, just as the  
15 State could not prosecute a reservation Indian for assault on tribal land in *Sohappy*,  
16 Defendant asserts the cigarette notification statute likewise cannot apply to a  
17 reservation Indian on tribal land. 110 Wash. 2d at 909-10.

18 The Government argues that Defendant is confusing the state's authority to  
19 enforce a statute with the reach of the statute. It proclaims that the cigarette tax  
20 statutes apply with full force to Indians on trust lands, but that RCW § 37.12.010  
21 simply limits the State's ability to enforce it there. The Government cites to  
22 *Colville*, 447 U.S. at 159, for the proposition that the State may impose at least  
23 minimal burdens on Indian businesses to aid in collecting and enforcing a valid tax.  
24 The Supreme Court there noted that "[t]here is no automatic bar [ ] to  
25 Washington's extending its tax and collection and recordkeeping requirements  
26 onto the reservation in the present cases." *Id.*

27 The Government also cites to *Oklahoma Tax Commission v. Citizen Band of*  
28 *Potawatomi Indian Tribe of Oklahoma*, 498 U.S. 505 (1991). There, the Supreme  
Court considered whether Oklahoma could, via a law suit, collect sales taxes due  
for tribal cigarette sales to non-tribal members. *Id.* at 507-08. The Court stated  
that tribal sovereign immunity "does not excuse a tribe from all obligations to  
assist in the collection of validly imposed state sales taxes." *Id.* at 512 (citing  
*Confederated Bands*). The Court upheld the state's authority to tax cigarette sales

1 to non-members on the reservation but denied the state the right to sue the Tribe to  
2 recover any unpaid tax. *Id.* at 512-13. Therefore, the Government asserts that  
3 sovereign immunity may limit the actions state agents may take on tribal lands to  
4 enforce the state's laws, but it in no way limits the reach of the state's taxing  
5 authority.

6 The *Potawatomi* case appears distinguishable from the present  
7 circumstances. Defendant is not basing his argument on tribes' inherent sovereign  
8 immunity. Rather, he is basing his argument on RCW § 37.12.010, which  
9 expressly limits the State's "assumption of jurisdiction," except in certain areas not  
10 relevant here, such that the State may not exercise its jurisdiction over "Indians  
11 when on their tribal lands or allotted lands within an established Indian reservation  
12 and held in trust by the United States[.]" RCW § 37.12.010. This language  
13 provides a stronger argument that the State's laws may not be enforced against  
14 Indians on tribal lands, but it does not definitively address whether the State's laws  
15 apply to Indians on tribal lands.

16 For guidance, the Court looks to *California v. Cabazon Band of Mission*  
17 *Indians*, 480 U.S. 202, 212-13 (1987). One of the many points discussed in this  
18 case was whether a federal statute, the Organized Crime Control Act (OCCA),  
19 authorized the application of local gambling laws to tribal bingo enterprises. *Id.* at  
20 212. Like the CCTA, the OCCA makes certain violations of state and local laws  
21 violations of federal law. *Id.* The Supreme Court found that the State could not  
22 rely on the federal law to permit the state's enforcement of the law—instead,  
23 enforcement was up to the federal government alone. *Id.* at 213-14. Inherent in its  
24 discussion is the Court's assumption that violations of state law apply to Indians  
25 within Indian country (including tribal lands) even when they cannot be enforced,  
26 and that they can still act as predicate offenses for federal statutes. *Id.* This may  
27 resemble "bootstrapping" as Defendant has characterized it, but it remains the law.

28 The specific language of the CCTA defining "contraband cigarettes" reads

1 “a quantity in excess of 60,000 cigarettes, which bear no evidence of the payment  
2 of applicable State or local cigarette taxes in the State or locality where such  
3 cigarettes are found, if the State or local government requires a stamp, impression,  
4 or other indication to be placed on packages or other containers of cigarettes to  
5 evidence payment of cigarette taxes. . . .” 18 U.S.C. § 2341(2). Section 2342  
6 makes it a federal crime for any person to knowingly “ship, transport, receive,  
7 possess, sell, distribute, or purchase contraband cigarettes[.]” 18 U.S.C. § 2342.  
8 Here, it appears the cigarettes at issue became “contraband” at the time of delivery,  
9 as the Court held in its earlier order, and the fact that they were delivered by a  
10 reservation Indian on trust land does not insulate Defendant from prosecution  
11 under the CCTA. The Court denies Defendant Fiander’s Motion to Dismiss on this  
12 ground.

13 Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

14 1. Defendant Louie Mahoney’s Motion to Suppress (Ct. Rec. 239) is  
15 **DENIED.**

16 2. Defendant Louie Mahoney’s Motion for Order Declaring 18 U.S.C. §§  
17 2341 & 2342 Unconstitutional for Vagueness (Ct. Rec. 256) is **DENIED.**

18 3. Defendant Louie Mahoney’s Motion to Dismiss Case Based on  
19 Discriminatory Enforcement (Ct. Rec. 235) is **DENIED.**

20 4. Defendant Louie Mahoney’s and Defendant Christine Mahoney-Meyer’s  
21 Motions to Dismiss Case as Conduct Was Authorized by Tribal Laws and  
22 Approved by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (Ct.  
23 Recs. 238 & 245) are **DENIED.**

24 5. Defendant Louie Mahoney’s Motion to Dismiss Case Based on Treaty  
25 Violations (Ct. Rec. 254) is **DENIED.**

26 6. Defendant Louie Mahoney’s Motion to Dismiss Case (Ct. Rec. 251) is  
27 **DENIED.**

28 7. Defendant Roger Fiander’s Motion to Dismiss Case for Lack of Predicate

1 Violation per RCW 37.12.010 (Ct. Rec. 261) is **DENIED**.

2 8. Defendant Louie Mahoney's Motion to Compel Disclosure of Any and  
3 All Promises of Leniency (Ct. Rec. 229) is **DENIED**.

4 9. Defendant Louie Mahoney's Motion for Disclosure of Identity and  
5 Production of Informants (Ct. Rec. 231) is **DENIED**.

6 10. Defendants Louie Mahoney, Christine Mahoney-Meyer, and Margaret  
7 Jose's Motions for Joinder (Ct. Recs. 219, 233 & 247) are **GRANTED in part,**  
8 **DENIED in part**. The Court grants Defendants' motions to join the motions  
9 currently before the Court, but will not grant a standing joinder order. Defense  
10 counsel should be able to keep track of the filings of co-Defendants and submit  
11 motions to join in those that they believe have merit.

12 11. Defendants Christine Mahoney-Meyer and Margaret Jose's Motions for  
13 Discovery (Ct. Recs. 218 & 234) are **DENIED**. Defendants may renew motions  
14 for discovery in the event a specific problem or issue regarding discovery arises.

15 12. Defendant Louie Mahoney's Motion for Extension of Time to File  
16 Pretrial Motions and to Strike and Continue the Trial Date (Ct. Rec. 226,  
17 Defendant Christine Mahoney-Meyer's Motion for Extension of Time to File  
18 Pretrial Motions and to Strike and Continue Trial Date (Ct. Rec. 243), Defendant  
19 Margaret Jose's Motion to Continue (Ct. Rec. 216) and Motion for Extension of  
20 Time to File (Ct. Rec. 217), and Defendant Fiander's Motion to Continue (Ct. Rec.  
21 224) are **GRANTED**.

22 13. The current trial date of October 2, 2006, is **stricken**. Trial is **reset** to  
23 **March 5, 2007, at 9:00 a.m.**, in Yakima, Washington. Counsel shall appear in  
24 chambers at 8:30 a.m.

25 14. A new pretrial conference is **set** on **February 13, 2007, at 1:00 p.m.**, in  
26 Yakima, Washington.

27 15. All pretrial motions shall be filed on or before **January 8, 2007**.  
28 Defendants may only file further pretrial motions upon a showing of good cause.

1 The Government shall respond to any pretrial motions on or before **February 2,**  
2 **2007.**

3 16. Within seven (7) days from the date of this Order, Defendants shall file  
4 a waiver of speedy trial.

5 17. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(8)(A), the time between October 2,  
6 2006, the current trial date, until March 5, 2007, the new trial date, is **DECLARED**  
7 **EXCLUDABLE** for purposes of computing time under the Speedy Trial Act. The  
8 Court finds that the ends of justice served by such a continuance outweigh the  
9 interests of the public and Defendants in a speedy trial.

10 **IT IS SO ORDERED.** The District Court Executive is directed to enter this  
11 Order and forward copies to counsel.

12 **DATED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2006.

13 *s/ Robert H. Whaley*

14 **ROBERT H. WHALEY**  
15 Chief United States District Judge

16  
17  
18  
19 Q:\CRIMINAL\2005\Mahoney\pretrial.motions.ord.wpd  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28